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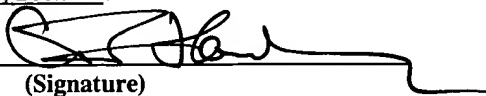
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kanji MINATO et al.  
Serial No. : 09/885,829  
Filed : June 20, 2001  
For : METHOD OF CONTROLLING SEED DISEASE

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C. Bruce Hamburg  
(Name)

  
(Signature)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the first complete paragraph at page 6 of the specification to read as follows:

A1 Further, a multiplicity of proposals have been made also in technologies of utilizing effective microorganisms for a purpose of controlling seed diseases (Japanese Patent Laid-Opens Nos. 51305/1993, 253827/1994, 25716/1995, 75562/1995, 224655/1997, 203917/1998,